

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a digital satellite communications system for communicating data between a HUB station and a plurality of VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminals) or between the VSATs via a communications satellite, each VSAT comprises: a digital signal processing section for demodulating signals received by the VSAT; ROM for storing a default program for letting the digital signal processing section execute signal demodulation at start-up of the VSAT; rewritable memory for storing an operation program for letting the digital signal processing section execute signal demodulation after the start-up of the VSAT; an operation program download section for obtaining the operation program by downloading the operation program from the HUB station; an error check/rewriting section for conducting error check to the downloaded operation program until an errorless operation program is obtained by the download and storing the errorless operation program in the rewritable memory; and a switching control section for switching a program which is loaded into and used by the digital signal processing section from the default program to the operation program.